CLAIMS

1. In an information handling system in which processes write data to and read data from a named pipe by issuing function calls to an operating system, a method of enabling the reading of data from a named pipe by a reader process while minimizing the use of system resources, said method comprising the steps of:

having a first reader process issue a read function call to the operating system specifying said named pipe to attempt to read data from said pipe; and

having said first reader process issue an activate-on-receipt function call to said operating system specifying a new reader process to be activated upon the receipt of data by said named pipe and then terminating if there was no data to be read from said pipe.

2. The method of claim 1 in which said new reader process is a new instantiation of said first reader process.

3. The method of claim 1 in which said activate-on-receipt function call specifies said named pipe.

4. The method of claim 1 in which said activate-on-receipt function call specifies data being passed from said first reader process to said new reader process.

5. The method of claim 1, comprising the initial step of:

having said first reader process create said named pipe if it does not already exist.

6. The method of claim 1, comprising the further step of:

having said first reader process repeat said step of issuing said read function call if there was data to be read from said pipe.

7. The method of claim 1, comprising the further step of:

having said operating system activate said new reader process in response to said activate-on-receipt function call upon the receipt of data by said named pipe.

8. In an information handling system in which processes write data to and read data from a named pipe by issuing function calls to an operating system, apparatus for enabling the reading of data from a named pipe by a reader process while minimizing the use of system resources, said apparatus comprising:

means associated with a first reader process for issuing a read function call to the operating system specifying said named pipe to attempt to read data from said pipe; and

means associated with said first reader process for issuing an activate-on-receipt function call to said operating system specifying a new reader process to be activated upon the receipt of data by said named pipe and then terminating if there was no data to be read from said pipe.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:

means associated with said first reader process for initially creating said named pipe if it does not already exist.

10. The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:

means associated with said first reader process for repeating said read function call if there was data to be read from said pipe.

11. A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for enabling the reading of data from a named pipe by a reader process while minimizing the use of system resources in an information handling system in which processes write data to and read data from a named pipe by issuing function calls to an operating system, said method steps being performed by said preexisting reader process and comprising:

having a first reader process issue a read function call to the operating system specifying said named pipe to attempt to read data from said pipe; and

having said first reader process issue an activate-on-receipt function call to said operating system specifying a new reader process to be activated upon the receipt of data by said named pipe and then terminating if there was no data to be read from said pipe.

12. The program storage device of claim 11, comprising the initial step of:

having said first reader process create said named pipe if it does not already exist.

13. The program storage device of claim 11, comprising the further step of:

having said first reader process repeat said step of issuing said read function call if there was data to be read from said pipe.

14. The program storage device of claim 11, comprising the further step of:

having said operating system activate said new reader process in response to said activate-on-receipt function call upon the receipt of data by said named pipe.

15. In an information handling system in which processes write data to and read data from a named pipe by issuing function calls to an operating system, a method of enabling the reading of data from a named pipe by a reader process while minimizing the use of system resources, said method comprising the steps of:

having said operating system receive an activate-on receipt function call from a first reader process, said function call specifying a new reader process to be activated upon the receipt of data by said named pipe; and

having said operating system activate said new reader process in response to said activate-on-receipt function call upon the receipt of data by said named pipe.

16. The method of claim 15 in which said activate-on-receipt function call specifies said named pipe.

17. The method of claim 15 in which said activate-on-receipt function call specifies data being passed from said preexisting reader process to said new reader process.

18. In an information handling system in which processes write data to and read data from a named pipe by issuing function calls to an operating system, apparatus for enabling the reading of data from a named pipe while minimizing the use of system resources, said apparatus comprising:

means for receiving an activate-on receipt function call from said reader process, said function call specifying a new reader process to be activated upon the receipt of data by said named pipe; and

means responsive to said activate-on-receipt function call for activating said new reader process upon the receipt of data by said named pipe.

19. A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for enabling the reading of data from a named pipe while minimizing the use of system resources in an information handling system in which processes write data to and read data from a named pipe by issuing function calls to an operating system, said method steps comprising:

receiving an activate-on-receipt function call from said reader process, said function call specifying a new reader process to be activated upon the receipt of data by said named pipe; and

activating said new reader process in response to said activate-on-receipt function call upon the receipt of data by said named pipe.